

REMARKS

1. Specification. Applicant submits herewith a replacement page 1 which revises the specification to include a cross-reference to the underlying International application and the Germany priority application, as appropriate.

2. Novelty/Obviousness. The Examiner objects to independent Claim 23 as being anticipated by the disclosure of Ko (US 6,465,271). The Ko reference was published after the priority date of the present application and relates back to an International application WO 00/02028, which was also published after the priority date of the present application. The International application WO 00/02028 claims priority to U.S. provisional application no. 60/091,909, filed on July 7, 1998. A copy of this provisional application is enclosed herewith.

As is clear from the enclosed copy, the U.S. provisional did not include those portions of the Ko reference, to which the Examiner refers. As such, those portions are not prior art with respect to the present application because the priority date applicable to those portions of Ko is after the priority date of the present application. Because Ko is not prior art, the claim rejections for novelty/obviousness are improper and should be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner find it helpful, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney, Michael A. Glenn at (650) 474-8400.

Respectfully submitted,



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